

# WEATHER.

Rain or snow tonight. Sunday, partly cloudy; little temperature changes. Temperature, past twenty-four hours: High, 40 at 4 p.m. yesterday; low, 32 at 1 a.m. today. For full report see page eleven.

No. 19,883.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1915—TWENTY PAGES.

ONE CENT.

## LINER LA TOURAINE IS SWEEPED BY FIRE WHILE OUT AT SEA

Wireless Flashes Start Several Ships to Rescue of Transatlantic Vessel.

281 LIVES ENDANGERED: AMERICANS ARE ABOARD

But Meager News Received From Liner Bound From New York to Havre.

FLAMES DESCRIBED AS FIERCE

Steamer Carries Doctors, Nurses and Vast Quantity of Supplies for Allies in European War.

LONDON, March 6.—The steamship La Touraine is afire at latitude 48.06 north and longitude 20.14 west, according to a wireless message received here. Several steamers have gone to the assistance of the La Touraine, the message said.

The message telling of the fire was received by Lloyds from the wireless station at Valentia, Ireland. In addition to giving the position of the Touraine, it is stated that the steamers Rotterdam, Swanmore, Cornishman, Arabic and others were going to her assistance.

A message from Queenstown says that the fire on La Touraine is "fierce."

The London office of the Compagnie Generale Trans-Atlantique, which owns La Touraine, is without special information concerning the vessel.

281 Aboard Vessel.

NEW YORK, March 6.—When La Touraine sailed away from this port last Saturday she had aboard eighty-one passengers, of whom thirty-eight were in the first cabin, the remaining forty-three being in the steerage. The vessel was one of six big liners to leave this port the same day, the sailings being the heaviest recorded here for some time.

At the local offices of the French line it was said this morning that no information had been received regarding the Touraine, which was reported in a wireless to London as being on fire. Maritime circles, however, received word from abroad that all the passengers and crew were safe, but this information was not confirmed here.

Shortly after 1 o'clock it was announced at the local offices that no information as to the steamer was expected until Monday and the offices were closed for the usual Saturday half-holiday.

On board the Touraine were 4,594 cases of cartridges intended for use in the European war.

First-Class Passengers.

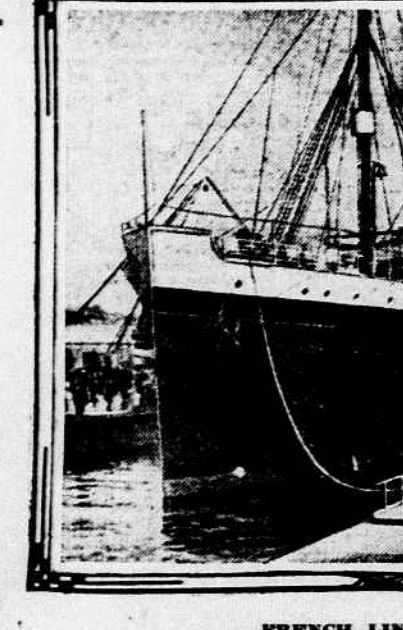
The first-class passenger list follows: Auguste Goulet, Montreal; Gaston Levy, New York; B. Feinberg, Brooklyn; Dr. J. L. Wheelwright, New York; Dr. J. C. Walker, New York; Mrs. J. C. Walker, New York; Miss Cecile Wetzch, Baltimore; Miss Louis Gaudreau, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; Mrs. Agnes Craib, Havana; Julius Simon, Montreal; Ralph Simpson, New Haven; Edmond Fravel, Montreal; Benoit Delpeuch, New York; Eugene Moget, San Francisco; Joseph T. Maurer, New York; Emile Pares, New York; Mrs. Alice O. L. Andrews, Boston; Master Ralph Andrews, Boston; Francis Repousse, New York; Wood Postoy, New York; Robert Alphonse, New York; Raymond Ruff, Woodbury, New York; and Paul Faguel, general agent French line, New York.

Physicians and Nurses.

Also the following physicians and nurses bound from the French Hospital in New York city to the American ambulance in Paris: Dr. John S. Irwin, Dr. W. J. Bradstock, Dr. A. O. Jimes, Miss Florence Gordon, Eugenia H. Lyons, Mollie McGrath, Dorothy O'Connell, Victoria Francfort, Cathryn O'Connell, Ellen O'Hanlon, Alicia Marie McCormick, Nellie Burdette Parsons and Berta Peterson and Thomas J. Burke, Jr., nurses.

The list of steerage passengers, totaling forty-three, included five French.

(Continued on Second Page.)



FRENCH LINER TOURAINE.

## PLANS FOR INQUIRY SOON TO BE MADE

Meeting of Joint Congressional Commission Set for March 15 at the Capitol.

INVESTIGATION PROPER TO START NEXT FALL

Fiscal Relations Between District and Federal Government Are to Be Looked Into.

After announcing that a meeting of the joint congressional commission to investigate the fiscal relations between the District of Columbia and the federal government would be held at the Capitol, March 15, for the purpose of outlining the plans for the investigation, and for deciding upon a date for the investigation to begin, Senator Chilton, chairman of the Senate wing of the commission, left Washington yesterday for West Virginia. It is expected that Speaker Clark will have appointed the three members of the House who will serve on the commission before March 15, so that they will be able to attend the proposed meeting. Should the House members not have been appointed by that time, it is likely the preliminary meeting will be postponed.

Inquiry to Start Next Fall.

The first meeting will be held in the office of Senator Chilton at the Capitol. The investigation proper, it is generally understood, will not be begun until next fall. Appointment of the House members may be expected late this afternoon, although Speaker Clark gave no assurance of this. No indication was given by the three representatives who have been appointed by that time, it is likely the preliminary meeting will be postponed.

"When do you expect to make the appointment, Mr. Speaker?" was asked. "You can expect it pretty soon now. Perhaps today."

Voices Gratification

That Fiscal Relations Will Be Fairly Probed

"The executive committee is gratified by the opportunity afforded by the creation of the joint committee of the Senate and House for a thorough and impartial consideration of the subject of the fiscal relations between the country and its National Capital and a report to Congress which by its wisdom and justice will end the harmful agitation of the question at least for many years to come."

This statement was made last night by the executive committee of the committee of one hundred created March 7, 1914, which had been appointed at a mass meeting representative of the entire community, aroused by the imminent danger of legislation which would destroy the half-century old arrangement of appropriation for the District of Columbia.

Glad Legislation Failed.

The statement issued last night says also: "The committee is gratified by the failure of all such legislation in the past, and receives word from abroad that all the passengers and crew were safe, but this information was not confirmed here."

Believes in Co-Operation.

"The executive committee believes that there should be effective co-operation by the different civic organizations of Washington which favor the continuance of the present fiscal relations between the United States and its National Capital and suggests a conference of the official representatives of such organizations to be held at the purpose of securing such co-operation in the presentation of facts to the joint committee of Congress."

Three Drown When Seaplane Falls.

TOKIO, March 6, 5:30 p.m.—The pilot and two officers were drowned when a navy seaplane fell today at Yokosuka. The seaplane and its crew were attached to the naval station at that place.

Evacuation of City Imminent.

Evacuation of Piedras Negras, opposite Eagle Pass, Tex., is imminent, today's reports to the State Department say. Villa forces are approaching from the south, and all conveyances in Piedras Negras have been seized for moving families to Nuevo Laredo. The American consul is working to protect foreign property. Carranza officials have asked permission to remove their wounded to the American side.

Starvation Threatens Capital.

Administration officials today awaited with intense interest further developments in the grave situation in Mexico City, where starvation threatens. Urgent representations by the American government have been made to Gen. Carranza through American Consul Sullivan that he direct Gen. Obregon to accept the proffer of aid to Mexico City's needy from the international relief committee, composed of foreign residents. Gen. Obregon, who has refused to accept the proffer, is reported to have declared that Mexico was in no need of such aid. Foreign diplomats here, however, are pessimistic over the situation in the Mexican capital.

## DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN CITY OF MEXICO TO LEAVE IN BODY

Envoys Express Intention in Dispatches to European Representatives Here.

SUBJECT OF SPECULATION AS TO PLACE THEY WILL GO

Situation Admitted in All Quarters to Be Critical—Bryan Agrees It Is Bad.

DECLARES HE IS NOT TO BLAME

Villa Disclaims Responsibility for Killing of American on Ranch in San Luis Potosi.

The foreign diplomatic corps in Mexico City has decided to leave in a body. Dispatches telling of the decision were received here today by European diplomats and forwarded to their home governments.

The Mexican situation, topped by this latest development, was admitted in all quarters to be more critical than it has been at any time since the course followed by Huerta precipitated the landing of troops at Vera Cruz.

No Reply From Carranza.

Secretary Bryan had received today no reply to the latest representations to Carranza against Gen. Obregon's decrees in Mexico City and his threat to leave the capital unprotected, with water and light plants out of commission, and the attendant possibilities of looting and killing. Mr. Bryan did not comment further today, but he said that the situation continued to be bad. Some definite development was expected in diplomatic circles as the result of the decision of the corps of European representatives to leave the Mexican capital. Where the diplomats would go was the subject of some speculation. Inasmuch as the Mexican government has asked them to leave, they are being imposed by Carranza's commander, Gen. Obregon, it was said, they hardly would go to Vera Cruz.

Gen. Villa has invited the diplomatic corps to leave the city, but in Chihuahua. To do so, however, it was pointed out, might be construed as recognition of his faction.

Capital Practically Cut Off.

Without diplomatic representatives in Mexico City, the capital and a large portion of the distracted country would practically be cut off from the world. While the foreign colonies in the Mexican capital have been greatly reduced in the last year, there still is a large number of foreigners in the country, among them being many Americans and Spaniards. The Mexican government has been making its representations in behalf of all through the Brazilian minister, but it is feared all foreigners would be at the mercy of the factions.

Calls Reports Exaggerated.

Juan N. Amador, head of Gen. Carranza's agency here, today declared in a formal statement that reports of the recent situation in the Mexican capital have been greatly exaggerated. He declared that Gen. Obregon would do nothing to "cause needless suffering." "It is ridiculous to talk of a situation arising in Mexico City similar to that which took place in Peking during the Boxer uprising," he said. "No foreigner who conducts himself properly need fear any injury in Mexico City. Gen. Obregon will do nothing to cause needless suffering. He will leave Mexico City only to move north against Villa. If Gen. Obregon has been compelled to use drastic measures to enforce the collection of a legal tax that has been imposed, this has been entirely the fault of the taxpayers who have endeavored to escape the just payment of their taxes."

Not to Blame for American's Death.

E. C. Lorente has received a telegram from Gen. Villa expressly disclaiming any responsibility for the death of the American who was killed on the ranch of an American in San Luis Potosi. Chamberlain recently sent a long telegram to a San Luis Potosi newspaper in which he said his ranch had been shot up and his manager killed by Villa's forces because the manager had refused to pay the tax on the Carranza forces. Villa's telegram follows: "E. C. Lorente, Washington, D. C.: 'Diaz Lombardo has just shown me your telegram referring to the complaints of an American named Chamberlain, who alleges that he is a property owner in the state of San Luis Potosi. You are informed in this connection that Chamberlain's reference to responsibility on the part of my command for his troubles is simply ridiculous. Chamberlain has been committed on the ranch of the entire Villa rests.'"

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MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

## GERMAN LOSSES, 3,000,000 MEN, IS OFFICIAL FRENCH ESTIMATE

PARIS, March 6, 4:30 p.m.—An official note issued by the French press bureau declares that the German losses since the beginning of hostilities in killed, wounded, sick and prisoners reach the enormous total of 3,000,000 men. This calculation is based on the known casualties in ten German regiments.

## THREE POWERS IN THE BALKANS NOT YET ENGAGED IN THE WAR

Greeks Expect Call to Arms; Roumanian Deputies Asked to Vote \$40,000,000 for Army; Bulgaria Said to Be Secretly Mobilizing.

Greeks Await Call to Battle.

PARIS, March 6.—"Greece awaits with extreme anxiety," says the Matin's Athens correspondent, "the decision of the crown council at yesterday's session, at which was discussed the nation's policy regarding the war."

"The general opinion is that the council pronounced in favor of intervention, in which case mobilization is imminent. If the decision was to remain neutral, the ministry of Premier Venizelos will resign immediately, according to the newspaper Hestia."

War Measures in Roumania.

PARIS, March 6.—A bill opening a credit of 200,000,000 leu (\$40,000,000) for military expenditures has been introduced in the Roumanian chamber of deputies by the government, says a dispatch to the Petit Parisien from its Bucharest correspondent.

Another bill has been introduced which would call up the 1915 class of recruits, extend for one year the period of command for generals who have reached the age limit and modify the law governing military requisition.

C. Disseo, former minister of public instruction, has announced that he will interpellate the government asking what attitude it intends to take, now that the fate of the Dardanelles is at issue, and if Roumania will be consulted by the powers in the settlement of that question.

Secret Mobilization in Bulgaria.

PARIS, March 6.—Bulgaria has mobilized secretly three full army divisions in the neighborhood of Tirnova, according to information contained in a Saloniki dispatch to the Havas Agency, based upon what is said to be reliable authority. The same source is responsible for the statement that the Kostendil division has been sent to an unknown destination. An unnamed officer high in the Bulgarian army is quoted as saying: "These troops would be useful in an advance on Adrianople."

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## SHIP ENTERS WRONG PORT.

French Ammunition Steamer Is Sunk by Germans at Ostend.

BERLIN, March 6, by wireless.—Army headquarters under date of March 4 issued a report saying that a French steamer loaded with ammunition and on her way to Kieupout had gone into Ostend by mistake. Ostend being in the possession of the Germans, the steamer was shelled and sent to the bottom. The wounded members of her crew were saved. The report explains that this mistake of coming into the wrong port was made because the crew on board the steamer were intoxicated.

## Worth Reading Tomorrow

"DEEP-SEA DIVING IN THE NAVY" tells of recent thrilling experiments in Long Island sound, which furnished valuable information to the Navy Department.

"MAKING LOOSE TEETH TIGHT" by EDWIN F. BOWEN, M. D., describes a medical discovery made only last summer that will be a boon to nearly every one.

CAPT. COMMANDANT E. P. BERTHOFF tells of the newly created coast guard in an interview with ASHMOUN BROWN.

"THE KING'S TEST" is a story by ANNIE HINRICHSSEN, which portrays a remarkable modern application of an ancient method of proving loyalty.

MRS. STEPHAN PANARETOFF, wife of the new Bulgarian minister, narrates her experiences in Turkish massacres.

"THE FORTUNATE ISLES" by JOAQUIN MILLER, is a familiar poem in a new decorative setting.

CHARLES M. PEPPER writes of WAR FOOD FOR GERMAN'S INDUSTRIES AND PEOPLE.

"SLINGS AND ARROWS" by JOHN KENDRICK BANGS, is the title of the fourteenth leaf from the lecturer's notebook.

"FAMOUS AMERICAN DEEDS" by EDGAR ALLEN FORBES, presents a vivid picturing of noted contest between Clay and Randolph, which did not result in harm to either.

STERLING HELLIG writes of the Aglion and the hidden Hapsburg treasure.

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Island squatters off the Maine coast are a queer people.

The Honorable Artillery Company, with an American branch, distinguishes itself at the front in Europe, and has been in the trenches for many weeks.

## NO GREAT REFORMS IN VIEW FOR POLICE

Neither Commissioners Nor Supt. Pullman Contemplate Any Wholesale Changes.

LATTER PRAISES SYSTEM BUILT BY SYLVESTER

Aims to Socialize Work of Department as Far as Practicable—Advocate of "Big Brother" Plan.

No sweeping reforms or wholesale changes in the personnel of the police department are contemplated either by the District Commissioners or Raymond W. Pullman, new superintendent of police.

As Commissioner Brownlow expressed it today, there was a vacancy to be filled as a result of Maj. Sylvester's request for retirement, and the Commissioners simply sought to find the best man available for the place. Their choice fell upon Mr. Pullman, as they believed him to be ideally equipped for administering effectively the police needs of the District.

Following their announcement yesterday that their investigation of the charges of official misconduct preferred against Maj. Sylvester had not been sufficient to warrant a trial being instituted, the Commissioners' statement that they do not contemplate revising the administrative methods of the police department generally is accepted as a further evidence of the high esteem in which Maj. Sylvester's work is held by the District government heads.

Admirer of Maj. Sylvester.

The retiring police chief has no more enthusiastic admirer than Mr. Pullman, who declared Maj. Sylvester built up a police system which is a credit to the District and that his retirement is a loss to the city. Mr. Pullman spent the morning at his office in the National Metropolitan Bank building, where he was kept busy receiving congratulatory messages from friends and officials of the police department, extending assurances of their desire to co-operate in every way with the new official.

Thoroughly in accord with the Commissioners' social service views, Mr. Pullman will endeavor to socialize as far as it may be practicable the work of the police department. But this will be brought about by steady study. He believes that a policeman should be not merely a cog in the machinery of the city, but a man who has opportunities for promoting social welfare, which he should constantly keep in mind and make the most of. In connection with this study will be made of the point of highest efficiency in the promotion of the police's social welfare. Humanity, in short, is what the department is to work for.

Thinks Highly of Department.

"Washington has a good police department and its personnel ranks high," said Mr. Pullman today. "The policeman gets and deserves more respect from the municipality than formerly was the case. He is being recognized as a bigger factor in municipal government. His opportunities for doing good are almost unlimited and it shall be my aim to see that he receives every encouragement in making the most of such opportunities. Aside from this I have no plans which will be of value or interest at this time."

When he reports upon the duties of the office April 1 he shall make a study first of the work that the department is doing and of what I think can be done by the men we have available. If I receive half the support that officials of the department already have pledged me shall have no fault to find and will feel that we can give the capital a good police administration."

Mr. Pullman believes that the chief of police is not the first District government job that has sought Mr. Pullman. Some time ago he was selected by the Commissioners to fill a vacancy on the board of children's guardians. He has taken an active interest in this work, which has developed many problems of a sociological nature.

Among proposed District reforms which have an interesting interest in the suggestion for an indeterminate sentence and parole law for prisoners who are sentenced to the workhouse at Occoquan, Mr. Pullman believes there is merit in the indeterminate plan, provided sufficient safeguards are provided to insure that the prisoners being released from custody the moment they have been conditioned for returning to society.

Interested in Vagrant Question.

A frequent complaint since the establishment of Occoquan has been that vagrants who have served their sentences are arrested upon their reappearance in Washington and again sentenced to the workhouse before they have an opportunity to look for work. Just what can be done to prevent injustices of this character is a matter which is interesting Mr. Pullman, and is not unlikely that this question will be considered in connection with the general problem of humanizing the work of the police department.

Mr. Pullman believes there is a place for the woman in police work, and has investigated the success which this experiment has met in Los Angeles and other cities. He realizes the opportunity of the policeman for setting a good example for the boys of the neighborhood in which his post is located, and is expected to prove an ardent advocate of the "big brother" plan.

Not only was Mr. Pullman the recipient of many congratulations over his appointment, but the Commissioners today also shared extensively in the felicitations. Their appointment of Mr. Pullman came as a complete surprise to the latter, who was not candidate for the position, and who was not aware of Maj. Sylvester's request for retirement until he had been selected as his successor.

U. S. EMBASSY IN PARIS ISSUES A FIRM DENIAL

PARIS, March 6.—The American embassy, taking note of the publication in the United States of a Paris dispatch stating that sixty-four applications for passports for American artists in Paris had been refused by the embassy owing to lack of birth certificates, states that it has accepted all the applications for transmission to Washington and that consequently none of them had been refused because the applicants did not produce birth certificates.

## ALLIES ARE ABOUT READY TO LAUNCH BLOW AT TEUTONS

Coming of Better Weather Finds British, French and Russians Optimistic.

PLANS NEARLY COMPLETE FOR DECISIVE ONSLAUGHT

Content to Have Held Their Own During Winter Months of Preparation.

COUNTING ON RUSS ARMS

Powers of Recuperation Shown by Czar's Forces Regarded as Highly Encouraging Feature of Situation.

LONDON, March 6, 1:30 p.m.—The end of the thirty-first week of the war, and the first signs of better weather conditions after a hard winter, find the allied armies in the western theater nearing readiness for that concerted onslaught on the Germans, in the preparation of which Gen. Joffre and Field Marshal Sir John French have been doing so much work during the last four months.

Their Lines Still Hold.

From the sea through the dunes of Flanders to Arras in France the British and the Belgian armies appear to have withstood successfully all the attempts of the Germans to break through their lines, while from Arras to the snow-topped ridges of the Vosges the French continue to win slowly forward. This is specially true in the Champagne district, although the skillful German commanders exact a heavy price for every step gained in this section. Here the French hope their efforts soon will result in freeing the city of Rheims from the attention of the German howitzers.

Recuperation of Russians.

The unqualified optimism with which, judging from the trend of the comment in the London newspapers today, the approaching gigantic struggle is regarded in Great Britain, France and Russia can be attributed largely to the remarkable recuperative powers shown by the troops of Emperor Nicholas. These soldiers, in spite of the fierce blows of the German armies under von Hindenburg, have been able not only to bring Teutonic progress to a standstill, but to push the invaders back along virtually the whole front until at one point at least it is admitted in Berlin the fighting has again moved very near to the East Prussian frontier.

Tighter Grip on Galicia.

In the south also the Russians appear to have tightened their grip on Galicia during the last few days, and they are reoccupying the crown land of Bukovina, with forces sufficient, according to their claims, to make their tenure permanent. The Russians' victory over the Germanic allies in the valleys of the Lomnitz and the Lukva, where they surrounded 20,000 Austrians, as was announced yesterday, must, it is believed in London, have a strong influence toward compelling the Austro-German forces again to vacate the vicinity of Czernowitz, if they are still there. The country west of Warsaw is again being watched for indications of another battle.

Plight of Turks Rejoices.

Another event which is adding to the serenity with which the allies today regard the future, is the picture of British, French and Russian warships hammering at the gates of the capital of Turkey, with such success, apparently, that Turkey already has decided she has had enough of the Egyptian venture, and is now rushing her troops back to defend Constantinople.

Austria-Hungary's reported reply to Constantinople when the Turks asked for naval assistance, "You had better move your capital to Asia," is being published prominently in London newspapers today.

Russians Say Enemy's Right Wing Is in Extreme Danger

PETROGRAD, March 6, 11:30 a.m., via London.—Reoccupation by the Russians of Stanislav is regarded here as justifying their claim that the rapid advance of the Austro-German right flank in East Galicia was hazardous so long as their left flank in Galicia was successfully held back by the Russian forces. The right Austro-German flank advanced impetuously, apparently without regard to the inability of the left wing to co-operate in the contemplated encircling movements. The right flank in consequence is now in danger of having the tables turned and being surrounded by Russian forces. The Russians now look for the retirement of the Austrians from Czernowitz and all of Bukovina, where the Austrian positions will become untenable if the Russians are able to continue the successful movement initiated at Stanislav.

Claims of Russian Staff.

Russian staff officers say since the failure of the Austro-Germans in the Stanislav region their attacks have weakened not only in that vicinity but in West Galicia, between the Rivers Ondava and San. Their attacks here in the opinion of the Russian staff are a